Although the human rights and humanitarian movements have accomplished a great deal, the dark sides of their efforts and the costs of those accomplishments are not often faced squarely. These movements have been insufficiently pragmatic, unwilling to acknowledge their power and weigh carefully the costs as well as the benefits of their interventions. At the same time, humanitarian pragmatism can also have unfortunate consequences, as the record of humanitarian law in legally privileging and legitimating death and injury in war makes clear. The human rights movement can shrink the available vocabulary for defining social justice, crowding out other machinery for human emancipation. Too often, it has been a vocabulary of the center against the periphery, suggesting social justice lies, always and everywhere—just implement these rights. But justice is not fixed: it must be made anew in each place and time. The challenge for activists is to take responsibility for participating in the politics of that creation, instead of hiding behind the mask of neutral expertise, advising others on how they might become humane. (DK)